

# #24

## Israel Judged

Why does it matter what happened to Israel? King Solomon is the wisest man to have ever lived. He writes: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) Speaking of Israel, the Apostle Paul writes: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Corinthians 10:11)

What happened to the nation of Israel is an example to us of what will happen to any people that repeat their mistakes. In fact, the mistakes of Israel shall be repeated and so shall their fate.

### The Blessings of Obedience

**Leviticus 26:1-13** – <sup>1</sup> Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. <sup>2</sup> Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; <sup>4</sup> Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. <sup>5</sup> And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. <sup>6</sup> And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid<sup>a</sup> evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. <sup>7</sup> And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. <sup>8</sup> And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. <sup>9</sup> For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. <sup>10</sup> And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new. <sup>11</sup> And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. <sup>13</sup> I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

### The Curse of Disobedience

**Leviticus 26:14-33** – <sup>14</sup> But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; <sup>15</sup> And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: <sup>16</sup> I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. <sup>17</sup> And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. <sup>18</sup> And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. <sup>19</sup> And I will break the pride of your power; and

I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: <sup>20</sup> And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. <sup>21</sup> And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. <sup>22</sup> I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate. <sup>23</sup> And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; <sup>24</sup> Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins. <sup>25</sup> And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. <sup>26</sup> And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied. <sup>27</sup> And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; <sup>28</sup> Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. <sup>29</sup> And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat. <sup>30</sup> And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. <sup>31</sup> And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. <sup>32</sup> And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. <sup>33</sup> And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

**Leviticus 26:36-38** – <sup>36</sup> And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth. <sup>37</sup> And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. <sup>38</sup> And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

**Deuteronomy 28:15-46** – <sup>15</sup> But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: <sup>16</sup> Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. <sup>17</sup> Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. <sup>18</sup> Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. <sup>19</sup> Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. <sup>20</sup> The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. <sup>21</sup> The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. <sup>22</sup> The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. <sup>23</sup> And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. <sup>24</sup> The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. <sup>25</sup> The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. <sup>26</sup> And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away. <sup>27</sup> The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. <sup>28</sup> The LORD

shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: <sup>29</sup> And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee. <sup>30</sup> Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof. <sup>31</sup> Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them. <sup>32</sup> Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand. <sup>33</sup> The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway: <sup>34</sup> So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. <sup>35</sup> The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head. <sup>36</sup> The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. <sup>37</sup> And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee. <sup>38</sup> Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. <sup>39</sup> Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. <sup>40</sup> Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. <sup>41</sup> Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity. <sup>42</sup> All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume. <sup>43</sup> The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. <sup>44</sup> He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. <sup>45</sup> Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: <sup>46</sup> And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

**Deuteronomy 28:47-53** – <sup>47</sup> Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; <sup>48</sup> Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. <sup>49</sup> The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; <sup>50</sup> A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: <sup>51</sup> And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. <sup>52</sup> And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. <sup>53</sup> And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

**Deuteronomy 28:58-62** – <sup>58</sup> If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; <sup>59</sup> Then the

LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. <sup>60</sup> Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. <sup>61</sup> Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. <sup>62</sup> And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 4:23-28** – <sup>23</sup> Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. <sup>24</sup> For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. <sup>25</sup> When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: <sup>26</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. <sup>27</sup> And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. <sup>28</sup> And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

**See also** – Leviticus 20, Deuteronomy 7-9 and 18:10-13.

## God's Mercy On Those Who Repent

**Deuteronomy 4:29-31** – <sup>29</sup> But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. <sup>30</sup> When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; <sup>31</sup> (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

## Israel Judged For Her Wickedness

**Judges 2:10-15** – <sup>10</sup> And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: <sup>12</sup> And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. <sup>13</sup> And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. <sup>14</sup> And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. <sup>15</sup> Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

**2 Kings 13:1-3** – <sup>1</sup> In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah

Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. <sup>2</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed<sup>b</sup> the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. <sup>3</sup> And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

**2 Chronicles 28:1-9** – <sup>1</sup> Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father: <sup>2</sup> For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim. <sup>3</sup> Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. <sup>5</sup> Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter. <sup>6</sup> For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant<sup>c</sup> men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. <sup>7</sup> And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king. <sup>8</sup> And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria. <sup>9</sup> But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage that reacheth up unto heaven.

**Psalms 106:34-46** – <sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: <sup>35</sup> But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. <sup>36</sup> And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. <sup>37</sup> Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, <sup>38</sup> And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. <sup>39</sup> Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. <sup>40</sup> Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. <sup>41</sup> And he gave them into <sup>42</sup> the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. <sup>43</sup> Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. <sup>44</sup> Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: <sup>45</sup> And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies. <sup>46</sup> He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

**2 Chronicles 33:1-10** – <sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. <sup>4</sup> Also he built altars in the

house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. <sup>5</sup> And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. <sup>7</sup> And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: <sup>8</sup> Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. <sup>9</sup> So **Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.** <sup>10</sup> And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

**See also** – Judges 3:1-9 & 10:7; 2 Kings 17:1-23, 24:1-20; Psalms 106:34-46; Jeremiah 39:1-9; Ezekiel 16:1-43; Luke 21:20-24; and 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16.

## Israel's Sins

**Psalm 106:34-39** – <sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: <sup>35</sup> But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. <sup>36</sup> And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. <sup>37</sup> Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, <sup>38</sup> And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. <sup>39</sup> Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

**2 Chronicles 33:1-10** – <sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. <sup>4</sup> Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. <sup>5</sup> And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. <sup>7</sup> And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: <sup>8</sup> Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. <sup>9</sup> So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would

not hearken.

## **God's Mercy On Sinners Does NOT Bring Righteousness**

**Judges 2:16-23** – <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. <sup>17</sup> And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. <sup>18</sup> And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. <sup>19</sup> And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. <sup>20</sup> And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; <sup>21</sup> I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: <sup>22</sup> That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. <sup>23</sup> Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

## **The Northern Ten Tribes Carried Into Captivity**

**2 Kings 17:1-23** – <sup>1</sup> In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. <sup>2</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him. <sup>3</sup> Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. <sup>4</sup> And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. <sup>5</sup> Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. <sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

<sup>7</sup> For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, <sup>8</sup> And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. <sup>9</sup> And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. <sup>10</sup> And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: <sup>11</sup> And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: <sup>12</sup> For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. <sup>13</sup> Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes,

according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. <sup>14</sup> Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. <sup>15</sup> And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. <sup>16</sup> And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. <sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. <sup>19</sup> Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. <sup>21</sup> For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. <sup>22</sup> For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; <sup>23</sup> Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

## **Judah and Benjamin Carried Away Captive to Babylon**

**2 Kings 24** – <sup>1</sup> In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets. <sup>3</sup> Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; <sup>4</sup> And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon. <sup>5</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? <sup>6</sup> So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead. <sup>7</sup> And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. <sup>10</sup> At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. <sup>11</sup> And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. <sup>12</sup> And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. <sup>13</sup> And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. <sup>14</sup> And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the

mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. <sup>15</sup> And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. <sup>16</sup> And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. <sup>17</sup> And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah. <sup>18</sup> Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. <sup>19</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. <sup>20</sup> For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

## The Destruction of Jerusalem

**Luke 19:43-44** <sup>43</sup> For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, <sup>44</sup> And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16** – <sup>14</sup> For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: <sup>15</sup> Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: <sup>16</sup> Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

**Luke 21:20-24** - <sup>20</sup> And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. <sup>21</sup> Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. <sup>22</sup> For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. <sup>24</sup> And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

## Summary

Israel was heir to the promises that God made to Abraham. God gave the land of Israel to Abraham as an everlasting inheritance; he said that his descendants would be as the sand of the sea; and that all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 13:14-16, 18:18, and 22:15-18). Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and Israel. Jesus was born of Mary who was of the seed of Abraham and through Jesus Christ all the nations of the world have been blessed.

Although all the world has been blessed through Jesus Christ, the majority of Abraham's descendants have rejected Jesus Christ and have received a curse rather than a blessing. After delivering Israel from captivity in Egypt, God promised Israel a special blessings if they kept his

commandments. He further promised to curse them and send judgment upon them if they turned away from him and refused to obey his commandments (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). We can see Gods warning to Israel in the selected verses above (if you can - take the time to read all of Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28 and Deuteronomy 7-9):

God's patients and long-suffering came to an end with Israel as it did with the Canaanites, Sodom and Gomorrah and the world before the flood. God also had to bring Judah under the captivity of Babylon and later again they became subject to the authority of Rome because of their rebellion. Eventually God used Rome to destroy Jerusalem after a majority of the Jews rejected Jesus Christ as their savior.

The Apostle Paul tells us: "Now all these things happened unto them [Israel] for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Corinthians 10:11) Solomon tells us: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

What happened to the nation of Israel is an example to us of what will happen to any people that repeat their mistakes. In fact, the mistakes of Israel shall be repeated and so shall their fate.