

## Lesson 19: The Sword and the Captivity

**Key Search Words - sword, trumpet, warn, wicked, turn, ruin, Assyrian, Egypt, Babylon, daughter, Jerusalem, remnant, blind, escape, flee, house, build**

Just like with Samaria and Jerusalem, the sword of the Lord is coming upon us and this warning must go out! In this generation where the definition of marriage is being debated, our faith and beliefs are weakening each day, evil and wicked practices are considered to be “good”, and the divinity of our Lord Jesus and His faithfulness to His Church are being questioned, I believe we as Christians have a serious choice to make. Will we allow ourselves to be deceived and blindly sleepwalk into our captivity and destruction, or will we allow our eyes to be opened by the Truth so that we can escape and walk in the direction of Life and overcome? The Truth has always been there, but we have become too lazy to even read it! The horn of warning is blowing, the alarm is going off – will we listen to it or ignore it?

Eze 33:1-11 (JPS)

Eze 33:17-33 (MSG)

Isa 5:20-23 (ASV)

Jer 6:16-19 (ESV)

2Ch 29:6-9 (ASV)

You might say, “This message is not for us, we are under the grace of Jesus now and this disaster would never happen to Christians.” The truth is - we are dead wrong!

Amo 9:10 (ESV)

We have become seekers of pleasures, conveniences, luxuries, riches, and entertainment but not the giver of Life Himself. We expect our own ministers to entertain us and we only want to hear things that are pleasant to our ears. We have become experts in these selfish ways and we have been excellent teachers of them to others. We say we know and love the Lord, but we aren't walking in His ways and loving Him like He wants us to love Him. We have been acting on our own feelings and not on Biblical facts. We want life to be easy and we don't think it is fair to live a holy life in this day and age. We have even created our own ways of worshipping God. So, because a part of the Church has become like Samaria, God is once again using the king of Assyria, the rod of His anger, to bring punishment upon her, just like He did in the days of King Hezekiah.

2Ch 32:1 (ESV)

Isa 10:5-6 (KJV)

\*\*Under "Tools" on the main menu of **e-Sword®**, open the Graphics Viewer to view a map of the Assyrian Kingdom (ABS, Assyrian and Babylonian Kindgoms).

True believers should not be afraid of him, though, because God will cut him down, causing him to fall.

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2Ch 32:7-8 (ESV)

Isa 10:12-34 (ESV)

In the days of Jeremiah, the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans overtook the city of Jerusalem. The king of Babylon took many of the inhabitants of Jerusalem to Babylon, but allowed a remnant of Judah to remain in the city. God promised this remnant that if they remained in the city, then He would deliver them from the hand of the king of Babylon, just like He delivered them from Egypt. Instead of obeying God like they said they would and waiting for Him to save them, the remnant decided to take matters into their own hands and go back to the land of Egypt on their own. But, instead of finding safety in Egypt, they found famine, calamity, and death. The king of Babylon and his army eventually overtook the land of Egypt and the people who weren't slain were brought back into captivity.

Jer 42:10-19 (ESV)

Isa 42:13-23 (MSG)

**We have been terribly wrong, misled and blind!** Instead of trusting in King Jesus to give us what we need and to deliver us, a part of the faithful Church has gone back into the old ways of her flesh, back into Egypt to become a daughter of Egypt. The king of Babylon, though, is coming to take over Egypt and the sword is coming upon their land. Now is the time for our eyes to be opened and to start heeding this warning. The same punishment and captivity that came upon Jerusalem is coming upon those of the Church who have joined themselves with the daughter of Babylon. We need to escape from our prison house and return by the Spirit on God's Highway to the land of Israel and to the Heavenly Jerusalem in Zion (review Baptized in His Name, Given Power and Protection).

Jer 46:19 (LITV)

Jer 46:24-26 (JPS)

Jer 44:13-14 (LITV)

Zec 2:7 (LITV)

Jer 51:33 (JPS)

Isa 48:1-22 (LITV)

Mic 4:6-10 (ESV)

Isa 11:11-16 (ESV)

Hab 1:5-12 (ESV)

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When the sword came upon Egypt by the hand of the king of Babylon, the cities in Egypt were laid waste (see Ezekiel 30, 31, & 32). The children of Israel and the children of Judah then lived in captivity in Babylon for many years, but God promised that He would punish the king of Babylon, his city, and his land (Jeremiah 50 & 51) in vengeance for His temple. God also promised that He would also bring back all of Israel to His habitation and the ruins of His city would be rebuilt (Ezekiel 36, 37, 39, & Isaiah 60). It is now time for those of us who know our God and understand who He is and how to love him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength to rise up and be strong and help each other in the rebuilding of God's city and house, just like Nehemiah and Ezra did.

Est 4:14 (GW)

Ezr 6:1-5 (LITV)

Ezr 7:6-20 (LITV)

Neh 2:17-18 (LITV)

We must consecrate a fast from doing our pleasures and our ways and return to the ways and heart of the King (review Lesson 17: The Division of the Kingdom).

Isa 58:1-14 (LITV)

2Ch 30:8-9 (LITV)

With the rebirth of the nation of Israel, God has already started the process of bringing His people back to His land. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., but in our recent history, it has been re-established again. Jews, who are not Christians, are still waiting for a Messiah, or new King of Israel. They are in constant battle with the Palestinians and Muslims over the city. They are waiting to build a Jewish temple on the Temple Mound. Christians used to persecute the Jews, but in our recent history, they have been working together in their love for Israel and God. God has purposed to bring all of His children together to unite them as one nation and one Kingdom under the reign of one King of Israel, the son of David - Jesus!

Eze 37:15-28 (LITV)

Mat 1:1 (LITV)

Isa 9:6-7 (KJV)

Rev 22:16 (ESV)